



Wallace welcomes corps soldiers to third Victory Strike exercise

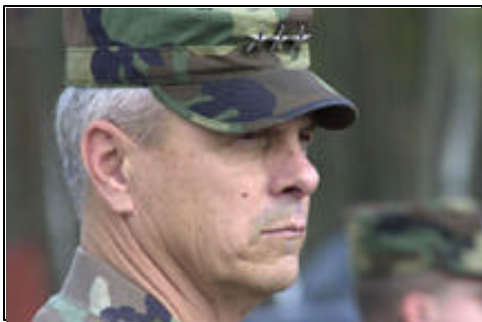


Photo by Bill Roche

Victory Corps Warriors,

Welcome to Victory Strike III.

For the next several weeks, V Corps will execute its largest and most complex exercise of the year as we train to refine crucial

warfighting skills and validate our ability to deploy fast and strike deep.

This year's exercise is the biggest Victory Strike yet. Our training area has grown immensely; we have thousands more soldiers "on the ground," and you have moved and set up thousands of pieces of equipment here. Your commitment to this mission has been complete, and I ask you to "keep up the fire" as we execute this most vital exercise.

Victory Strike III is an unprecedented opportunity to conduct realistic corps deep operations training. This is our time to tax our abilities to "train as we intend to fight" in high-intensity conflict, and to become a more cohesive corps team.

The interoperability of joint and combined forces will also play a crucial role here. Train-

ing in concert with our sister services and allied forces is essential to our success as 21st-century warriors, capable of fighting and winning at any time, in any place.

I am completely confident that each of you will give 110 percent in helping us build on the successes of previous Victory Strike exercises as we showcase our skills as the best warfighters our Army has to offer. Fight hard while you are here; learn while you are here, and most importantly – be safe while you are here.

I'll see you on the high ground.

Victory Corps – It will be done!

WILLIAM S. WALLACE
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

**V Corps
soldiers join
Polish
citizens in
dedication for
Sept. 11
victims**



By Sgt. Amy Abbott
Polish high school military students stand at the position of attention in front of the plaque which renames their school in Kalisk Pomorskie after the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks.

V CORPS ENGINEERS BUILDING STRUCTURES, SKILLS AND MEMORIES DURING POLAND EXERCISES

By Sgt. Vincent M. Picard
207th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

DRAWSKO POMORSKIE TRAINING AREA, Poland — What makes a lasting touch? A monument built to withstand the ravages of time? A moment that can bring a smile to a man's face a year after the fact?

Soldiers from V Corps' 94th Engineer Battalion, 130th Engineer Brigade have found ways to build all three, through their participation in the corps' annual Victory Strike exercises here.

During those exercises, the brigade has been both the corps' military engineer asset and a boon to the Polish communities near the exercise areas here.

Perhaps the project that made the most lasting impact on a community began last year, when the battalion's Company B repaired a leaking roof on the high school in Kalisz Pomorski during Victory Strike II. The psychic reward on that material investment came Sept. 30, when nearly the entire town turned out a year after the project to both honor the engineers and rededicate the school to the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"I was surprised and humbled to come back here this year and see how much everyone still appreciates us and are happy to have us back," said 1st Sgt. Jeff Gliedman, who served as the project's platoon sergeant. "It had a positive impact on our soldiers, too. They were more aware of what they were doing — representing themselves and the U.S. Army. The project also served to provide the unit's sol-

diers with opportunities to work on fine construction, projects they don't often have in their normal mission.

"Everything we did provided soldiers with quality training," said Gliedman. He said the platoon developed as a team, giving members a chance to learn skills they did not have before.

The work those skills were honed on is greatly appreciated. "They did a very good job. It is perfect," said Alexandra Rodecka, one of the school's teachers. "At first, we expected the soldiers to be different, but we had a lot of contact, and they are nice people.

These two results — quality construction by skilled soldiers and grateful communities — are the point of the program, according to Lt. Col. Paul Grosskruger, battalion commander. "Every soldier is an ambassador here," he said. "We are engaged at every level, and we get great Mission Essential Task List training for the soldiers. They cover everything from reconnaissance and convoy operations to force protection and developing their technical skills."

Grosskruger said training value is one of the key factors in selecting a project. These assistance operations are conducted only in conjunction with major exercises. Money to cover material expenses comes from the U.S. European Command, which mandates that they be done during the exercise. Grosskruger said this requires a lot of reconnaissance and staffing, with extensive coordination coming from the host nation to narrow down and prioritize potential projects.



Photo by Sgt. Vincent Picard
Darek Sierostawski and Spc. Chris Collier, Company A, 94th Engineer Battalion, 130th Engineer Brigade, apply plaster as part of the renovation of the Drawsko Pomorskie (Poland) hospital.

The work put into that selection is paid off by the appreciation of those whose lives are improved as a result. "The roof was just awful," said Malgorzata Gulczynska, a second-year student. "I don't know why our soldiers did not do this, but I think it was better for the Americans to help us. We were nervous at first, but then we got to know them. It was nice for us — they helped us with our English a lot."

The same opportunity to create a lasting touch is now available to Company A of the

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ENGINEERS cont.

94th as they labor to renovate the Drawsko Pomorskie hospital. One of the company's platoons is busy working with Polish laborers to completely renovate the hospital's emergency area with new plasterwork, doors, a bathroom and showers, drop ceilings and an ambulance double door.

"The hospital has been waiting for a separate emergency unit for a long time," said Mariosz Brych, the hospital manager. "We are very important to this region, and the equipment is ready. This has been an 8-year wait."

Brych said the hospital serves more than 70,000 people, providing more than 8,000 people a year care with general medicine, maternal care, surgery and other disciplines.

The new suite will provide the only modern emergency care in the region. The renovation is expected to take about a month, according to Staff Sgt. Antonio Lockett, project platoon sergeant. "They told us that if we hadn't come here, the hospital may have had to close down," said Lockett. "Some of the work is different from what we are accustomed to, but our soldiers picked it up fast enough."

There are about 38 soldiers and 10 Polish laborers working on the renovation, and Lockett said it only took a couple of days for his troops to get into the flow of doing the work the Polish way. Some of his soldiers



had never done plasterwork before. "At first, they thought we were 'in the mud' kind of soldiers," he said. "But after a couple of days they were wondering how we learned so fast and worked so hard. I told them we just feed the soldiers a lot and give them water and they will keep going."

The hard work and fast pace impressed Damian Adamczyk, a Polish plasterer. "I like them very much," he said. "They are hardworking. They don't complain. They look for work to do, and even take tools away from each other to keep working. The best is that they are always smiling. I would work with American soldiers again with great pleasure."

The pleasure is not only Adamczyk's. "This is exactly the kind of work I wanted to do while I was going through school," said 2nd Lt. Adrian Sykes, project manager. "We are helping the people of Poland and representing our country well. People have been very impressed with us. In fact, (Brych) asked us to work slower because he feels more secure when we are around. I would do this work again in a heartbeat."

These humanitarian community assistance projects are leaving indelible marks on both the American soldiers performing the work and the Polish citizens benefiting from it. Their lasting touch is both a structural story teller... letting generations of Polish children and others know that Americans were here, and an emotional one... a lifting of the human spirit from a seemingly unlikely source.

Where soldiers deploy – AAFES follows

By SPC Rebecca Burt

V Corps Public Affairs Office

To many soldiers stationed in Europe the term "Post Exchange" brings visions of large department stores filled with every imaginable good. But, for soldiers currently in Poland for Victory Strike III, it is something a little bit different.

As soldiers were preparing for a month of training, many Army and Air Force Exchange Service employees were preparing to deploy themselves to man mobile PX facilities throughout the training area.

"We feel that it is important to support the troops wherever they go," said Rae-Ann Betts, who usually works as a shift manager at the Vilseck Shopette and is now helping at the Konotop PX. "We want to do whatever we can to bring them a little bit of home, giving them a little more comfort and raising their morale."

Each PX is built into the back of a 30 to 40-foot semi truck trailer, complete with wall racks, displays and cash registers. They carry a wide variety of items from snack food to magazines and uniform items to souvenirs. Most even have a selection of movie rentals.

Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Pearson, a material management noncommissioned officer with 19th Support Center out of Wiesbaden, Germany, says the PX facilities really help to make things more pleasant.

"When you're away from home and want something that the mess hall doesn't have, you can go get it," he said. "Being able to buy phone cards helps too, there's nothing better for raising morale than a call home."

For Capt. Reginald Satter White, Signal Communications, V Corps, shopping at a mobile PX while in the field was a new experience.

"I'm used to tactical units in the middle of nowhere," he said. "This is the first time I've seen a PX in the field."

"If we have the room for them without upsetting regular operations then it's great," Satter White added. "I definitely took advantage of it."

Soldiers didn't keep their kudos for the idea to themselves either, according to Betts. "A lot of them have been thanking us for being out here," she said. "We're glad to be out here helping them."

Soldiers deployed with VSIII can find PX facilities at Ziemsko, WTA, Miraslowiec and Konotop. AAFES has plans for a mobile PX unit that will visit the remaining training areas on a rotating basis. PX business hours are generally from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., but sites may vary in order to provide the best possible service. The shops accept American dollars and most major credit cards but will not take Euros.

According to Betts, soldiers will also be able to enjoy fresh pizza and barbeque at Anthony's Pizza facilities at Ziemsko, WTA and Konotop. The Konotop Anthony's is currently open and serving from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.



Photo by Spc. Kris Steward
Pvt. David Bell (left) and Pvt. Lonnie Browning, wire system installers of the 22nd Signal Brigade, enjoy a couple slices of Anthony's Pizza at the Konotop basecamp Tuesday. Anthony's Pizza and Colter's BBQ Restaurant are open daily, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Both are located behind the HHC, 7th CSG headquarters building near the PX.



Host Nation

Words & Phrases

English	Phonetic
Yes.....	tahk
No.....	n'eh
Please.....	prosheh
Thank you.....	dzen'kooyeh
Your welcome.....	prosheh bahrdzo
Excuse me.....	pshehprahshahm
Where is.....	gdzheh yehst
Good morning.....	dzhehn'dobri
Good afternoon.....	dzhehn'dobri
Good evening.....	dobri vyehchoor
Good night.....	dobrahnots
Goodbye.....	do veedzen'ah
Hello/Hi	ches'tsh
Do you speak English?.....	chi moovee pahn'ee
How much/how many?.....	eelah
What do you call that?.....	yahk s'eh tahmto nahzivah

Sports

The 2002 Major League Baseball Playoffs began Tuesday with the Cardinals looking for revenge in a rematch with the D-Backs as small budget Minnesota goes from possible contraction to a division title and a playoff series with the A's. Also, the Yankees begin their bid for a 27th title against the Angels of Anaheim. Wednesday, Bonds and the Giants will try to prove they can perform in the postseason against Atlanta.

Weather

Today: Partly cloudy with a high temperature of 63 F and a low of 46 F. Light and variable winds and a 10 percent chance of rain.

Tomorrow: High temperature of 59 F and low of 45 F. Cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain.

(Weather report information from www.weather.com)



Information Roundup

Sgt. Amy Abbott
Victory Strike III PAOC

DRAWSKO POMORSKIE, Poland — As the saying goes, neither rain nor sleet nor gloom of night can stop the mail. Well, at Victory Strike III, not even the Polish border can hold back the Army's camouflaged postal protectors. From their headquarters just a few kilometers from here in Konotop, the postal professionals for the exercise are bringing the mail to the troops.

To be more accurate, this year, in effort to improve the quality of service for the participants of V Corps' biggest annual training exercise, the Konotop mailroom isn't just bringing in mail, but also sending out first-class personal mail and selling stamps.

"We're here to provide postal service to all military services here, making it easier for them to contact their loved ones via mail, or pay their bills," said Sgt. David Carson, senior postal operations sergeant. "Without the postal operations, it would be a lot harder for some to communicate with their families, so therefore we are also a big factor in increasing the morale and welfare of the troops."

There are specific restrictions for all Victory Strike personnel who send personal mail, however. In accordance with postal operations policy, personal mail must be "limited to first-class mail (to include audio and video cassettes) weighing 13 ounces or less." The mailroom also does not offer any accountable mail services such as registered, insured, certified or express mail, or any money order services.

Exercise participants who want to receive mail must have it addressed with their home station mailbox address and Consolidated Mail Room (CMR) number. The sender must also write "Victory Strike III" and the name of his base camp at the exercise, below the address.

According to Carson, mail is dropped off at Konotop Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and picked up Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. All mail will first be sent to the main Army Post Office in Kitzingen, Germany to be routed to its final destination.

Incoming mail will then be direct expressed to Poland.

Safety tips for VS III:

- Take safety seriously.
- Take time to do things by the book.
- Have a plan.
- Use the buddy system.
- Report unsafe acts.

